

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 H-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-08
INRE-00 /067 W
-----262101Z 130793 /66

O R 262000Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4196
INFO AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EAID, IT
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL AID FOR FRIULI

REF: STATE 90206

1. FOLLOWING, KEYED TO QUESTIONS REFTEL, REPRESENTS AMCONSUL
TRIESTE RESPONSE WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL US
REFLIEF ASSISTANCE TO FRIULI EARTHQUAKE AREA:

QUOTE:

A. REACTION IN FRIULI HAS BEEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY GRATEFUL
FOR THE AMOUNT AND CONTENT OF USG PROGRAM TO DATE WITH PARTICULAR
APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT US RESPONSE TO THEIR NEEDS. FOR
THESE REASONS, US PROGRAM HAS HAD A BROAD POLITICAL IMPACT IN
AREA.

B. WITH EMERGENCY PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30 AND ALL THOSE
IN NEED NOW HOUSED AT LEAST IN PREFABRICATED HOUSING, ATTENTION
IS FOCUSED IN RECONSTRUCTION OF FRIULI. A THREE BILLION
DOLLAR FIVE-YEAR PLAN IS NOW BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT. IN THIS
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CONTEXT, US INTERESTS WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY SIGNIFICANT
PARTICIPATION IN AND IDENTIFICATION WITH LONG-TERM
RECONSTRUCTION IN KEY NORTHEASTERN AREA.

C. SOME COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATIONS ARE OF OPEN, UNITY
VARIETY OF LEFT ALLIANCES. NEVERTHELESS, FRIULI-VENEZIA
GIULIA ON THE WHOLE IS A STRONGHOLD. IN REGIONAL ELEC-

TIONS DUE IN 1978, DC PERFORMANCE/LEADERSHIP IN EARTHQUAKE AND ITS AFTERMATH WILL BE SOLE ISSUE. THE MORE DC IS PERCEIVED AS DELIVERING ON RECONSTRUCTION, BETTER IT SHOULD DO. SCHOOLS/HOMES FOR AGED PROGRAMS WOULD APPEAR TO BE AS WELCOME IN PORDENONE AS THEY ARE IN UDINE. GIVEN REGION'S RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, HOWEVER, CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE ADVISABLE.

D. SCHOOLS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND WELCOME. HOMES FOR AGED IS RELATIVELY NEW CONCEPT IN THIS AREA. THERE WAS NO PERCEIVED URGENT NEED FOR INSTITUTIONS BEFORE MAY 6.CENSUS TAKING ETC. SINCE EARTHQUAKE, HOWEVER, REVEALED NUMEROUS OLD PEOPLE LIVING ALONE. AT SAME TIME, SCARCE RESOURCES OF SMALL COMMUNITIES COULD BE SEVERELY STRAINED IN PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS. SITES SHOULD BE CHOSEN WITH CARE.

E. US AID FOR SCHOOLS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE INCORPORATED INTO REGION'S OVERALL PLAN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND DECIDED UPON IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE SAME WOULD BE TRUE FOR HOMES FOR AGED. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS NO LACK OF PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD. END QUOTE.

2. I ENDORSE VIEWS EXPRESSED REFTEL AND STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT VIGOROUSLY CONGRESSIONAL MOVES TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE FIGURES QUOTED PARA 1 REFTEL. BULK OF ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING SHOULD, I BELIEVE, BE ALLOTTED TO PROGRAMS IN PORDENONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVINCE WHERE SECOND SERIES OF SHOCKS DID MOST DAMAGE. I HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ABILITY OF MOST SMALL COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT NEW INSTITUTIONS BUT BELIEVE THE NEED FOR REPLACING SCHOOLS AND OTHER COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDINGS IS SO LARGE THAT IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT TO PROGRAM ADDITIONAL FUNDS EFFECTIVELY AND VISIBLY.

3. IN VIEW OF EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE NEEDS OF REGION, US CONTRIBUTION TO REHABILITATION OF FRIULI CANNOT BE DETERMINING IN ITS DIMENSIONS. HOWEVER, BY DEVOTING OUR MONEY TO PROJECTS THROUGHOUT REGION (IN BOTH UDINE AND PORDENONE PROVINCES), WE SERVE US INTERESTS IN NUMBER OF IMPORTANT WAYS:

A. PROJECTS WILL BE PERMANENT REMINDERS OF US CONCERN;

B. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN FRIULI WILL INEVITABLY GET CREDIT FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH US THAT LED TO OUR INVOLVEMENT IN RECONSTRUCTION, AND ITS ELECTORAL POSITION

SHOULD THEREFORE BE REINFORCED; AND

C. OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS
WILL SERVE AS CONTINUING PROD TO GOI TO MAINTAIN HIGH
LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN FRIULI. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, REPORTS, EARTHQUAKES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME06740
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770418/aaaaapgv.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b881c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 90206
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2690745
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL AID FOR FRIULI
TAGS: PINT, EAID, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b881c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009